Dalton Wed@7:30pm: Live and Interactive!

2016–17 Season
Wednesday 25 January 2017
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.
Pre-Concert talk with Dr. Robert White at 7 p.m.

DUE EAST
Erin Lesser, Flutes
Gregory Beyer, Percussion

Jeff Herriott

The Stone Tapestry
Section 1: Clouds of Stone
Section 2: Between the Sun and the Shade
Section 3: Luminous Stones
Section 4: Beneath a Granite Sky
Section 5: Consciousness Floats into the Wind
Section 6: Wanderer Hymn
Section 7-8: Purification of the Stone and Lament of the Stone
Section 9: Draping the Walls with Ice

The Stone Tapestry is a collection of interwoven myths, about origins, lifecycles, and the pace and significance of change. As a whole, the piece divides into two segments that together trace the path of just a few stones, from discovery to disappearance. Musically, several different ideas appear and recur in different forms, modeling change across large time spans. The ritualistic approach to the performance of many segments of the piece is intended to impart a distance to the act of music-making, placing focus on the repetitive nature of the physical acts themselves. The Stone Tapestry was commissioned for Due East by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University.

The piece was composed for Due East (flutist Erin Lesser and percussionist Greg Beyer). It can be performed with optional video set design, created by Anna Weisling.

A recording of The Stone Tapestry, with Due East and Third Coast Percussion, is being released on New Focus Records in February 2017.
Jeff Herriott is a composer whose music focuses on sounds that gently shift and bend at the edges of perception. His works, which often include interaction between live performers and electronic sounds, have been described as "colorful…darkly atmospheric" (New York Times) and "incredibly soft, beautiful, and delicate" (Computer Music Journal). In addition to the Barlow Endowment commission for The Stone Tapestry, Jeff’s works have been supported by the MATA Festival, Jerome Composers Commissioning Program through the American Composers Forum, the McKnight Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Jeff's music is recorded on Albany, Innova, clang, SEAMUS, SoundSet, and Lakeshore labels. Jeff is Professor of Music at UW-Whitewater. (http://jeffherriott.com)

As a soloist, and chamber musician Erin Lesser has been described as “superb”, “excellent”, and “elegant” (New York Times). She has travelled to prestigious venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Hall, the Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ (Amsterdam) and Alice Tully Hall where she performed the American premiere of Morton Feldman’s For Flute and Orchestra with the Janacek Philharmonic. Erin is a member of Alarm Will Sound, a group that has been awarded the ASCAP Concert Music Award for “the virtuosity, passion and commitment with which they perform and champion the repertory for the 21st century”. She is also a core member of Wet Ink, a group that has been described as “thought-provoking and expansive and fearless” and a founding member of the Argento Chamber Ensemble. Erin is Assistant Professor of Flute at Lawrence University and a Pearl Flute Performing Artist. Erin is Assistant Professor of Flute at Lawrence University and a Pearl Flute Performing Artist.

Fullbright Scholar, composer, educator, and “prodigiously talented percussionist” (Chicago Classical Review), Gregory Beyer is a contemporary music specialist who blends the disciplines of orchestral, jazz, and world music into a singular artistic voice. He is the Artistic Director of Arcomusical, a resource dedicated to the Afro-Brazilian berimbau musical bow. Beyer is Associate Professor and Head of Percussion Studies at Northern Illinois University. He is a core member of the Chicago-based new music ensemble, Dal Niente. He spent the 2015–16 season in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, teaching at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, training capoeira Angola with Contramestra Alcione Oliveira of the Capoeira Angola Dobrada Association, and working with a tremendous group of musicians, Arcomusical Brasil, with whom he traveled to Africa to present and perform at the international Bow Music Conference.

Due East actively promotes new music and seeks to expand the flute and percussion duo genre through frequent commissions and premieres. The duo has performed in China, Brazil, Europe, Canada and the United States at venues such as the Beijing Modern Music Festival, the Warsaw Crossdrumming Festival, Banff Centre for the Arts and the SEAMUS conference. Due East has given multiple performances at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, won first prize in the 2008 National Flute Association Chamber Music Competition and were finalists in the 2011 International Concert Artists Guild Competition. The duo has on multiple occasions been ensemble-in- residence at the Yellow Barn Chamber Music School and Festival. Their first recording, Simultaneous Worlds, is available on Albany Records. Their second recording, Drawn Only Once, is a multi-media CD/DVD available on New Amsterdam Records. Noted critic Steve Smith gave it a rare 5.0-star rating in Time Out New York, calling it “spellbindingly beautiful.” (http://dueeast.net) Hailed by The New Yorker as “vibrant” and “superb,” Third Coast Percussion explores and expands the extraordinary sonic possibilities of the percussion repertoire, delivering vibrant performances for audiences of all kinds. Founded in 2005, this “brilliant” ensemble (The Independent) has performed hundreds of their first recording, Simultaneous Worlds, is available on Albany Records. Their second recording, Drawn Only Once, is a multi-media CD/DVD available on New Amsterdam Records. Noted critic Steve Smith gave it a rare 5.0-star rating in Time Out New York, calling it “spellbindingly beautiful.” (http://dueeast.net) Hailed by The New Yorker as “vibrant” and “superb.”

This concert is a Bullock Performance Institute (BPI) presentation. BPI events are made possible through the cooperation and support of several community fine arts units: the Donald P. Bullock Music Performance Institute; WMUK National Public Radio; the Western Michigan University College of Fine Arts and School of Music; and WMU’s chapters of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternities.

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.